

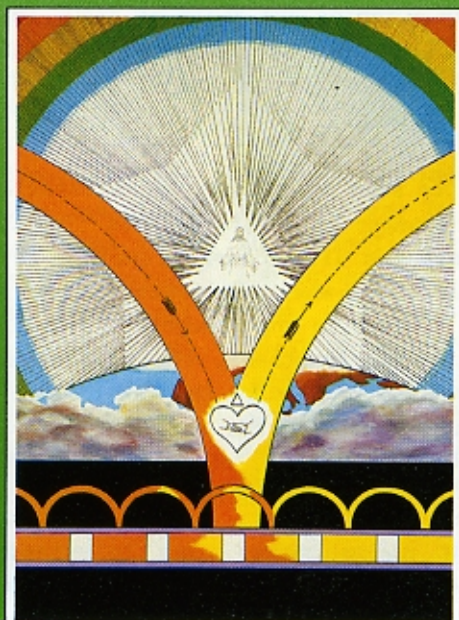
KOSMOS

NO. 4

MARTINUS COSMOLOGY

1985

AS THE DAY LENGTHENS
THE VIRGIN BIRTH
THE COSMIC MESSAGE OF CHRISTMAS
WITH TWO FINGERS



COMMENTARY



"As the day lengthens..."

by Mary McGovern

1985 has seen the 40th anniversary of two important events in the history of mankind - the dropping of the atom bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and the setting up of the United Nations. Two more diametrically opposed events are difficult to imagine. Together however they symbolise the duality which exists in Man's consciousness - the animal and the man; the riddle of the sphinx revealed. Man, the intelligent animal, clever enough to outshine the beast of prey, is battling it out in an intellectual jungle as the sun is starting to rise on a new human culture which aims at peace, love and harmony between individual and nations.

This duality is seen in our way of celebrating Christmas, as pointed out in Ingemar Fridell's article "The Cosmic Message of Christmas", where the life-giving principle is shadowed by the life-taking principle, where Christmas presents and Good Will to All Men are mixed with the slaughter of millions of innocent animals. "As the day lengthens, the cold strengthens". Yes - when intelligence is applied to the laws of the jungle all hell is let loose on earth, but the sun continues to rise and the ideals of the United Nations, of a truly humane human race are seen above the smoke on the horizon.

The Virgin Birth

by Martinus

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The idea of virgin birth was part of the mysteries of the past

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We learned that Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary and had therefore a material or physical mother, but we have also learned as children that he did not have a physical father. It is said that Joseph was not the father of Jesus but that it was Our Lord Himself, through the "holy spirit", who caused Mary to conceive and give birth to the Infant Jesus. Now one must not believe that accounts of virgin births are something peculiar to Christianity. It has been said of many of the great spiritual leaders, kings and initiates of the past that they were born of a virgin; that they were direct sons of God. However, this does not mean that those who created the expression "virgin birth" thought that the initiated did not have a physical father. The idea of virgin birth was part of the mysteries of the past. Through these mysteries one understood the truth revealed directly in a



form in which it was possible for the most developed terrestrial people of that time to receive it, but one in which it was impossible to pass it on in the same way to the very unintellectual and primitive public. To the general public one had to explain the truth by means of symbols and parables which could be understood and in many cases taken quite literally. All the many Egyptian gods, for example, who are depicted with animal heads and other peculiarities are symbols of cosmic principles which could not possibly be passed on to the general public in a scientific form. Gradually both the royalty and the clergy degenerated and

the real knowledge behind the mysteries was lost so that those who were to lead and guide the people gradually became as naive about religious matters as the people themselves. People took the parables and symbols literally and religion became mere ceremonies and dogmas. While a king or high priest of the past who was really initiated into the mysteries knew what lay hidden in the expression "virgin birth" and that behind this expression there was no reference whatsoever to physical birth, neither the priests of a later time who had not undergone such an initiation nor the religious authorities of our time knew anything of these mysteries and therefore believed and still believe that it is a matter of a real physical event which, because it is not common, must be described as a miracle.



Egyptian Gods with animal heads

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In the past the leaders and religious authorities of mankind were truly initiated beings who, to some extent, had knowledge of certain electrical phenomena

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In the long-lost past the leaders and religious authorities of mankind were thus truly initiated beings who had cosmic consciousness or, at any rate, had had very strong cosmic glimpses. For them the innermost essence of religion was science, and many of the miracles and so-called supernatural phenomena they at times brought about were results of their scientific insight and therefore not in the least supernatural. Moses, of whom it is written that he was trained in all the wisdom of Egypt, to some degree also had knowledge of certain electrical phenomena and the like, and used them among other things to strengthen his authority and position over the often rebellious and disobedient Jewish people.

One did not, of course, call it electricity; one called it the "spirit of God", and it was not what many people of today perhaps believe, a kind of fraud by means of which one deceived people. One knew that it was divine power and that there would come a time again when one would understand that all that which we call electricity, although in reality we do not know what it is, is divine power, indeed, the life-power of the universe itself which, as the spirit of God, "moves upon the face of the waters" - this means that it directs all particles in the universe whether these particles are electrons or atoms, whether they are the organisms of people or animals, or whether they are planets, solar systems or milky ways.



An ancient Egyptian "battery"

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The mysteries and the king-principle must degenerate in favour of the development of the public so that the individual himself will be able to receive knowledge of the universe and its laws

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But why was terrestrial mankind in the long-lost past led by initiated beings, while the religious and secular leaders who are at the head of terrestrial Man's various communities and religions today are absolutely ignorant about the spiritual realities which lie behind the physical reality? One might think that if that is the case then it is not a question of evolution but only of degeneration and decline. This is, however, not the case. The entire transformation which has occurred through thousands of years from the time of the initiated kings to our modern civilisation and culture is, on the contrary, a gradual evolution. It is an evolution of the

public. Therefore something must degenerate and something new must be developed. What degenerated were the mysteries and the king-principle and thereby the religions and blind belief. The general public were not to continue to be led by the initiated who had to transform the cosmic truths into symbols and parables, dogmas and ceremonies, a kind of spiritual spoon-food for childlike mankind. It was necessary for a time, but, just as the baby grows away from its mother's milk and spoon-food and gradually also from nursery school and school and must go out into life and learn to stand on its own feet, so Man also grew away from its spiritual baby stage into adolescence where it is necessary for him to experience things for himself and learn from life and its laws. The spiritual values which were hidden in the old mysteries did not of course thereby lose their value; they are eternal truths, but, in the form in which they were manifested, were no longer in keeping with the times. The public should now be led into a new development which matured the individual so that he could receive knowledge about the universe and physical laws - without mystery and without being led by religious dictatorship.

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Intelligent but religious people begin to be able to see the absurdity of the dogma of the virgin birth; for these people modern spiritual science was created

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A very great part of terrestrial mankind gradually drifted into a materialistic and atheistic thought-climate, and their intelligence became developed in order to control the forces of nature through science and technology and to put these

forces, for example electricity, to practical and useful purpose. Religion has degenerated so rapidly that it has come to mean less and less in people's daily lives and is today only a rudiment of what it has been in the past. From the wise men of the past terrestrial Man will now get to know the cosmic truths, the essence of which has been lost but whose outer shells still exist as myths and dogmas, in a way which is suited to the intelligence which, partly through the fight for existence and partly through technical and scientific evolution, have gradually become the dominating factors in the consciousness, or at any rate factors to which the individual attaches more and more importance. And it is also on the basis of the developed intelligence that more and more people can see the absurdity in a dogma about virgin birth and cannot help asking why Jesus could not just as well have been born in a natural way and still be just as divine. Even if many people repudiate the outer forms of religion which cannot inspire them, not all of them nevertheless are irreligious. Quite a number would like to believe if only they could; they lack a fixed point in existence. But their capacity for thinking prevents them from accepting a religion which in so many ways is full of illogical narratives and contradictions and requires that one should blindly believe in its very letter. For these people who are about to drift out of the materialistic thought-climate and are longing for something they can understand which they are not required to believe, modern spiritual science is being created; and in the future there will be more and more of these people. Spiritual science will unveil the old cosmic truths which have been partly or entirely lost in such a way that it is no longer a matter of mysteries with secret initiations but a series of analyses which every seeker

will have the opportunity to come into contact with; and if he feels on the same wavelength with these sequences of thought he will also have the chance to try to practise them in his everyday life and thereby gradually create that condition in his own mind which will bring him more and more into contact with the "holy spirit" or the keynote of the universe, which means the consciousness and behaviour of the eternal Godhead.

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The dogmas will now be superseded by cosmic or universal analyses

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What used to be dogmas that could satisfy a religious instinct and a primitive feeling, but which became pure nonsense when the intelligence was to take them literally, will now be superseded by cosmic or universal analyses which address themselves to Man's intellectualised feeling, his humane capacity and his faculty for thinking, as well as to his incipient intuition. Naturally the concept of virgin birth must also be analysed so that the modern spiritual researcher can see what the wise men of the past really meant by this expression.

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Those "born of a virgin" have been the teachers, guides and at times also the castigators of terrestrial mankind through its childhood stages

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The concept of virgin birth conceals a mystery which was associated with those beings who differed from ordinary terrestrial Man because of an innate spiritual sovereignty. They were beings in whom the real truth about life and its laws to a greater or lesser extent was revealed in its scientific form. These beings became known as great pharaohs and high priests; as spiritual leaders of peoples; as prophets and world-redeemers. They had to a greater or lesser extent the ability to experience for themselves the real truth through their own awake day-conscious senses. It was an ability which was reserved for the very few, while the majority were completely devoid of the abilities to be able to experience in such a way.

From these initiated beings people received interpretations and adaptations of the great truths which suited their spiritual level. These "virgin-born" have been the teachers, guides and at times also the castigators of terrestrial mankind through its childhood stages which have stretched over thousands of years. Buddha, Christ and Mohammed are the last three teachers of this type whose activities have had a world-wide significance. Where did all these initiated beings get their knowledge from? What kind of mental area in their consciousness was it which completely separated them from ordinary terrestrial Man? This mental area was the "holy spirit"; it was a divine consciousness and knowledge; it was an ability which they had not inherited from their parents or ancestors, who were quite ordinary people not possessing such abilities or such a mental area in their consciousness. It was, however, a fact obvious to all that they were born of a woman. But how could a child of ordinary terrestrial parents grow up to show a heavenly or divine consciousness or way of being?

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Jesus, with the appellation Christ – the initiated, knew that his spiritual insight was the result of a process of evolution through many physical incarnations

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It was no problem for the initiated; they knew that their spiritual insight was the result of a process of evolution through many physical incarnations through which they had become mature enough to receive spiritual fertilization from the Godhead in the form of cosmic impulses so that they themselves in an awake, day-conscious condition were able to feel at one with the forces of the universe and control them, both in their own minds and in surrounding Nature. Christ has expressed it in these words: "What I do, I do not do by myself but the Father through me". But how could this reality be explained to the public who were unable to comprehend the real truth? Indeed, when there are qualities in any child which are not like the parents' qualities, primitive people may easily start to speculate about who could be the father of the child. There is never any doubt about who the mother is. But even if the husband is the father of the child it can very well possess qualities which it has developed in previous incarnations but which neither of the parents possess. Joseph could very well have been, and most likely was, the physical father of Jesus. One can easily see how in the listing of Jesus' genealogy in the New Testament the writer is not at all concerned about the mother's family, but only about the fact that long ago Joseph was of David's lineage. We call Jesus, Jesus Christ, and the latter name means "messiah" that is, the anointed or the initiated. We can then say that Joseph was the father of Jesus - that is, of the physical person with an ordinary Jewish

name, but not the father of Christ; he was not the source of the cosmic consciousness which, as the young Nazarene grew up, gradually overtook his mind and made him feel at one with the Heavenly Father whose consciousness encompasses everyone but with which ordinary terrestrial Man will not be consciously on the same wavelength until he takes his cross and follows in the footsteps of the Nazarene.

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Terrestrial Man is about to drift into a new phase of evolution where initiation takes place in the "pyramid of daily life"

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People of the past accepted the interpretation that the initiated were direct sons of God; and then of course there was the cosmic truth behind this symbol that that part of their consciousness which actually made them initiated beings was something they had not inherited from parents or relatives; it was not of this world. More and more people of today cannot accept the old literal interpretation and some of them cannot of course understand the analysis of the expression "virgin birth" either. That will have to wait until they are ready for it. More and more, however, will in time be able to grasp the analysis, but then quite naturally the question will arise: "What significance does it have for people of our time who are no longer guided or governed by "virgin-born" kings, prophets or world-redeemers, that these great wise men of the past were divinely inspired or even "one with the Father" ? Can it help us in our present situation ? If it cannot, it is of no great significance". But it can help when one understands it and sees it in the light of spiritual science. It is a new phase of evolution that terrestrial Man is about to drift into. When the

principle of mystery and the divine suggestion from leading kings and high priests degenerated, it was just because terrestrial mankind had grown out of its childhood stage and into a stage of puberty.

Many people are now about to grow out of this cosmic puberty and are ready to stand on their own feet, which means, ready to receive cosmic initiation. But now it will no longer take place through initiations in temples or pyramids where difficult physical and mental tests had to be passed. Now the initiation takes place in the middle of the "pyramid of daily life", and the religious teachers will be superseded by spiritual science which is accessible for every seeker. The "virgin birth" is not just something which belong to the past; all terrestrial people will in fact with time reach the condition of consciousness which has been given this name in dogmatic religion and has thus been misunderstood. That which I, in my cosmic analyses, call the "great birth" or the attainment of cosmic consciousness is in reality the "virgin birth". It is not a birth which consists of a being being born of a female being or a mother's organism nine months after a physical process of conception; it is an inner birth in the being's own consciousness or organism which transforms this being into a Christ-being who is one with the Father and radiates the "holy spirit" or divine neighbourly love in thoughts, words and actions towards everyone and everything.

Translated by Mary McGovern and Harald Berglund.

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Published in the Danish edition of KOS-MOS No. 14/1972.

The cosmic message of Christmas

by Ingemar Fridell



A greeting from the wise men of the past

Many well-known fairy tales and myths express cosmic principles in a symbolic form. The Christmas story in the gospels is no exception and the symbolic content is more important than to what degree it contains historical fact. This story can actually be seen as a greeting from the wise men of the past to the truth-seeker of today.

In Nature we observe the changing of the seasons. Even our consciousness is subject to mental seasons of a kind, though these stretch over millions of years. The cosmic year is made up of six such mental seasons. Of these, we know the mineral kingdom, the plant kingdom and the animal kingdom. Biologically and mentally we are still to a great extent animals, even though we call ourselves human beings. This is due to the fact that we are transitional beings on our way towards the next great mental season - the real human kingdom. What leads us from one season to another is the devel-

opment of new mental faculties. Physical or biological evolution is actually only an indirect result of this growth of consciousness based on all the experiences of life.

The cosmic winter solstice or the culmination of darkness takes place in the animal kingdom, to which we still belong. If we are becoming more and more humane and considerate, it is because the cosmic sun has once again begun to rise higher in our mental sky. But the winter cold - egoism - is at present holding the world in its iron grip. We are now experiencing a cosmic cold spell in the form of the arms race and the threat of nuclear weapons. The darkness in the world is certainly not pleasant but it is the necessary divine soil from which universal love grows. The foremost mission of violence and war is to create abhorrence of violence and war. Through the sufferings which follow in the footsteps of egoism our mental course is re-directed towards the light. Many people have already abandoned violence and

killing since they have become pacifists and vegetarians, primarily for ethical reasons. If most people had the same attitude, the much longed-for peace on earth would already be a fact. But with every war more and more people get their fill of cruelty and violence.

Life's winter solstice

It is towards the end of December that it is darkest and that is why we celebrate Christmas at this time. The brightly shining Christmas star is a symbol of the returning light. The initiation of darkness is now finished and the dawning light and warmth of spring are beginning to fill our minds. Each of us has within ourselves a winter aspect and a spring aspect. It is the winter aspect which has turned Christmas into a heathen feast of slaughter with overeating of Christmas turkey and parts of the corpses of a great number of murdered animals. But it is the spring within us which has given rise to the custom of giving each other presents and turned Christmas into a festival of joy.

The birth of Christ, as it is told in the Christmas gospel, symbolises the cosmic birth of mankind. What we experience today is nothing less than the destruction of the animal kingdom in every human being and the birth-pangs of the kingdom of heaven. This world full of militarism and bloodshed is the stable where the Christ-child is born. So the stable represents the animal kingdom. It is not this shelter which is intended to be the future shelter for mankind. A crib is intended for animals' feed, but we are told that it had to serve as a bed for the new-born Jesus. The crib in the stable symbolises our mammal organism. It is in this body that the new-born humane consciousness is lodged. As

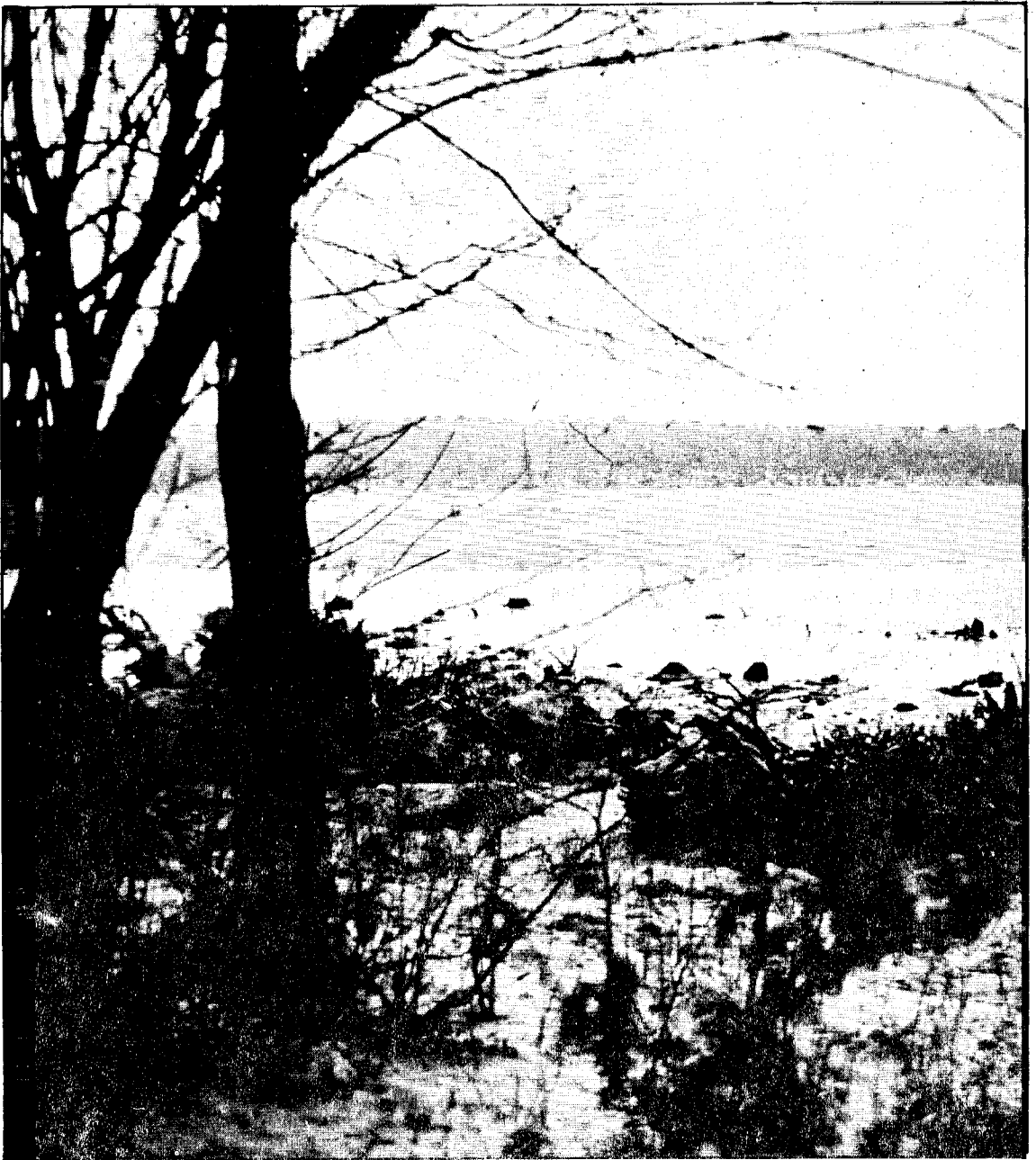
the human consciousness grows, this body changes so that it becomes a more fitting tool for its purpose.

We are also told that Herod saw this new-born baby as a threat and therefore had all the baby boys in the area killed in order to be sure that Jesus would not escape. But Jesus was already in safety in Egypt, where he and his parents had fled. There are many representatives of Herod in the world who are prepared to silence people's growing cries for peace and justice with power and violence. It is all the more important for those groups who wish to work for peace and greater justice, or who are against destruction of the environment and so on, not to let themselves be contaminated by the same kind of Herod mentality that lets the end justify the means. With thoughts filled with anger and bitterness no lasting peace can be created. On the contrary, nothing in the long run can hinder an attitude characterised by compassion and forgiveness from changing the world into a paradise.

World Redeemers



The three Wise Men symbolise the three world religions: Christianity, Buddhism and Islam. These have, to a greater or lesser extent, stimulated the development of humaneness. The gifts of the three Wise Men therefore symbolise the



stimulating influence the religions have had on the growth of universal love. It is to a great extent due to the religions that schools, hospitals, relief work and many other things are a natural part of modern society. The fact that many atrocities have been committed in the name of God only goes to show the evolution from a "beast-stage" to the stage

of the perfect human being is a far-reaching process which can take place only gradually. It is moreover an inevitable step in evolution that people lose their ability to believe and thereby come to have a materialistic view of life. As a consequence of this, the religions' message is transformed and realised on the practical plane, for exam-

le, through the creation of different social institutions and the struggle for political justice. The symbolic language of the religions was adapted to suit the people of the distant past with their relatively low level of knowledge and their significantly more naive way of thinking. The purpose was not to give answers to the great questions of life in the form of analyses. Thanks to the growth of natural science among other things, people of today are much more ready to understand cosmic analyses. It is this cosmic knowledge Jesus meant when he prophesised that the Holy Spirit would fulfil his mission. The whole of the spiritual part of existence will be explained scientifically in the same way that the physical science of today explains the physical part of existence. The decisive qualification for the acquisition of this knowledge, as opposed to physical knowledge, is not previous education or academic degrees but the individual's ability to love. Spiritual science will form the basis for a coming Heaven on Earth.

The Christmas story and the real human being

The myth of the Immaculate Conception and the Virgin Birth is also part of the Christmas story. People of his time had a view of sexuality as something inconsistent with the divinity of Jesus. The genealogical table with its list of 42 generations nevertheless shows how Jesus was physically a direct descendant of Abraham and David. The Virgin Birth is not an expression of historical fact but a symbol of something which is not the result of reproduction or the sexual urge.

In the animal kingdom all beings are divided into two sexes. This division is

due to the cosmic sexual structure which expresses itself as the sexual drive on the physical plane. This sexual structure, which in reality constitutes the principle of winter, is the cause of all kinds of antipathy, rivalry and jealousy. Universal love has a completely opposite sexual structure, which reveals itself as a desire to give rather than to receive. So it is a change of animal sexuality into human sexuality which will make us qualified citizens in the coming real human kingdom. Our growing capacity for sympathy gives rise to a number of interests and friendships outside marriage, home and family. Phenomena such as art and science raise us mentally above the level of the animal. In the future world-culture, art and science will together become the art of living in such a way that artistic creativity will come into harmony with reality, and science will become a kind of art-form making it possible to build a paradisiacal existence. Human sexuality can in no way be bound by sexual preference and reproduction. In the real human kingdom there can be no favouritism towards a being of the opposite sex: here everyone loves one another equally. The masculine and the feminine are united in the humane, which leads to a point where a completely new type of organism replaces our present mammal bodies. This new organism cannot be born of a woman but is a product of the power of thought. In the real human kingdom everyone lives in a cosmic marriage where the central theme is to make your neighbour happy in all conceivable ways. The Christmas story is a cosmic symbol of the future fate of mankind. The fairy tale of life itself is a gospel of light and joy; a true fairy tale, greater, more exciting and more fantastic than any other.

Translated by Harald Berglund

With two fingers

by Tage Buch



"All beginnings are difficult" and "practice makes perfect" are two well-known expressions which refer to the development of habit or the creation of new talents. I have often thought about this in connection with the time, many years ago, when I learned to type. It happened like this.

As an apprentice in an office I at first typed with two fingers. It went slowly at first and it was not a particularly efficient way of doing it. But then when I changed my job and was employed by a bank, I decided to go on a course to learn the ten-finger system. Every morning from 8 o'clock until 8.50 I went to typing class, and at 9 I began work at the bank. Part of the morning's training took place to the accompaniment of music so that we could practice typing in rhythm; and so I began to learn the new system. But during my work in the bank I still often had to use two fingers because I had not had enough practice at the ten-finger system, and so I used both systems concurrently for some time, and of course this created difficulties. But in time I became so used to the new system that I could use all ten fingers not only on the course before office hours but also in my daily work; then of course progress was rapid

because both the morning's training and the day's work followed the same system.

Later, while becoming accustomed to new ways of thinking and acting, and especially now when I think of my present situation, it comforts me to think back to the time when I was practising the ten-finger system. Yes, now that I am in the happy situation of having found a good logical explanation of the universe, a theory which shows the necessity of neighbourly love and forgiveness if we want a happy future, and even though at times I train very hard in this area, I still symbolically hack away with two fingers. Every now and then I practise the new system - neighbourly love - but then I continue again in daily life with two fingers only. But one day, perhaps in the distant future, I can cultivate the unfolding of neighbourly love both in the training periods and in workaday life, and when the training and workaday life merge together, I shall begin to make rapid progress. To think of this is a great comfort and encouragement. But today, as far as neighbourly love is concerned, I am still hanging on to the two-finger system.

Translated by Mary McGovern

NEWS FROM THE MARTINUS INSTITUTE



INTERNATIONAL SUMMER COURSE IN MARTINUS COSMOLOGY

The two-week English-speaking International Course at the Martinus Center, Klint, 4500 Nykøbing Sj., Denmark will take place from Saturday July 26th till Saturday August 9th 1986. The course will consist of daily lectures and study groups. See programme for details.

A FILM ABOUT MARTINUS COSMOLOGY

The first step towards the making of a film about Martinus Cosmology is about to be taken. The Danish film director Lennart Pasborg who has been studying Martinus' works for a number of years has been contracted by the Martinus Institute to write a manuscript for a film about the new world-picture. When the manuscript is ready, efforts will be made to find means of financing the realisation of the film.

It is intended that the film will be shown on television and that it will be used for the purposes of information and education in schools, colleges, universities and other educational centres.



Film director Lennart Pasborg

MARTINUS COSMOLOGY

Martinus (1890-1981) was a Danish writer whose life's work is known collectively as »The Third Testament«. The main part of his prolific output is the seven-volume work entitled »Life's Book« (»Livets Bog«). He has also written »The Eternal World-Picture« – a work in three volumes in which he illustrates the main Principles of his cosmology with the aid of beautiful symbols and explanatory texts – as well as about thirty smaller books. His books are published in Danish by Borgen Publishers, Copenhagen.

At present only the following books are available in English:

»The Eternal World-Picture, Vol. 1«; »Logic«; »Easter«; »On the Birth of my Mission«; »The Ideal Food«.

These are available from The Martinus Institute. »Life's Book, Vol. 1« and »The Eternal World-Picture, Vol. 2« are at present being translated.

KOSMOS

The purpose of KOSMOS is to give some insight into Martinus' world-picture and to inspire readers towards the very essence of this world-picture – humanitarianism and neighbourly love.

Martinus has described this world-picture which is an explanation of life's spiritual laws and principles in »The Third Testament«. This work is written for those who are in search of an understanding of existence – an understanding based on reason which would satisfy both their feelings and their sense of logic.

Martinus Cosmology is not any kind of sect or association. One cannot become a member of Martinus Cosmology. It is a guide openly available to all those who can use it to become aware of life's eternal truths.

The English edition of Kosmos is issued quarterly, price £4, 40 D.kr, 6\$ and is available from The Martinus Institute. A sample copy is available on request.

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THE SYMBOL

The symbol on the front cover which is called "The perfect man in God's image after His likeness" shows the perfect way of behaving or what it means "to turn the left cheek when one is smitten on the right".

At the bottom of the symbol we see the course of evolution through many lives from animal (orange) to the perfect man (yellow). The rectangular areas symbolize our physical earthly lives from birth to death. The smaller pale yellow areas between these show that we find ourselves in spiritual worlds between our physical earthly lives. After each stay in these worlds a new earthly life begins based upon the qualities and talents we have developed through previous physical lives. The orange and yellow arcs show that our fate is a result of our own actions from previous lives as well as our present life. The large orange arc which stretches from the left side to the middle symbolizes an unpleasant or so-called "evil" action which is sent out towards someone. This is answered by friendliness and understanding symbolized by the heart and the yellow arc. The symbol therefore shows the perfect man's total initiation in fate and the mystery of life, his understanding of eternal life, evolution and the law of fate: "as thou sowest, so shalt thou reap". Through this eternal law we will all learn to differentiate between what is evil and what is good. We will become perfect; we will become "the perfect man in God's image after His likeness".